

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 20**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Huffman**

September 9, 2011

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 20—Relative to the federal Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 20, as introduced, Huffman. Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

This measure would call upon the Congress of the United States to quickly pass the federal Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act and the President of the United States to expeditiously sign it into law.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Inclusion in the National Marine Sanctuary System  
2 offers comprehensive and permanent protection to important  
3 marine resources, large scale ecosystem management, and vital  
4 oceanic research investments, while allowing for recreational,  
5 shipping, and fishing activities; and  
6 WHEREAS, Sonoma and Marin Counties' coastal waters just  
7 south of Bodega Head are within the boundaries of the Gulf of the  
8 Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and  
9 enjoy the protections and benefits of the National Marine Sanctuary  
10 System; and

1 WHEREAS, The Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank  
2 National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection  
3 Act, authored by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (H.R. 192) and  
4 authored by Senator Barbara Boxer (S. 179), would adjust the  
5 boundaries of those two marine sanctuaries north to add deeper  
6 and biologically important waters, and would extend the boundaries  
7 of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary just past  
8 Point Arena, thus including the entire Sonoma Coast and the  
9 southern Mendocino Coast; and

10 WHEREAS, The area encompassed by the Sonoma Coast and  
11 southern Mendocino Coast is one of the most biologically rich  
12 regions in the world. These waters are within one of the four coastal  
13 upwelling zones on the planet, comprising only 1 percent of the  
14 ocean, but producing 20 percent of the world's fish. Additionally,  
15 the coastal estuaries of that area are important passages for  
16 endangered salmon and steelhead, essential haul sites for seals and  
17 sea lions, migration corridors for the California gray whale and  
18 other whale species, and prolific nurseries for hundreds of aquatic  
19 species; and

20 WHEREAS, These important marine resources, among the  
21 richest on the planet, must be protected from oil spills and other  
22 forms of pollution; and

23 WHEREAS, By expanding the boundaries of the Gulf of the  
24 Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, the  
25 Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine  
26 Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act (H.R. 192  
27 and S. 179) will protect the University of California, Davis, Bodega  
28 Marine Laboratory's investment in marine research, regional jobs  
29 that are dependent on commercial and recreational fishing, tourism,  
30 recreational uses, and indefinable aesthetic benefits; and

31 WHEREAS, A congressional and executive moratorium on  
32 offshore oil exploration and exploitation was removed in 2008,  
33 leaving these waters of special biological significance unprotected;  
34 now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
36 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature joins with the Counties of  
37 Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma to call upon the Congress of the  
38 United States to quickly pass the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell  
39 Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and  
40 Protection Act (H.R. 192 and S. 179) and the President of the

1 United States to expeditiously sign that act into law; and be it  
2 further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
4 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
5 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
6 President pro Tempore of the Senate, to each Senator and  
7 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
8 States, and to the Chairs of the House Committee on Natural  
9 Resources and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
10 Transportation.

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